

## **Contents:**

- 1. Proposed Ethics Code (Tom Truex, November 2002)**
- 2. Proposed Ethics Code (Judy Paul and Tom Truex, June, 1999)**
- 3. Broward County, Statement of Ethical Campaign Practices**
- 4. Comparison Chart**

**1. Proposed Ethics Code (Tom Truex, November 2002)**

## **TOM TRUEX PROPOSED ETHICS CODE, November 2002**

As a candidate for elected office in the Town of Davie, I voluntarily agree to abide by the ethical standards for candidates, as described in this Ethics Code. I will participate in any inquiry of the Fair Campaign Practices Committee of Broward County. If elected, I commit to the ethical standards described for elected officials.

### **As a Candidate, I will...**

1. Publish a clear platform and list of specific ideas I have on issues of importance to the Town of Davie. I will encourage and participate in debates and forums which present the issues to residents.
2. Avoid untrue, misleading, or exaggerated claims about myself or opposing candidates.
3. Not resort to mud-slinging in my campaign. I will not use negative campaigning, except where necessary to make legitimate distinctions between myself and any other candidates. I will attempt to cover relevant qualifications and issues throughout the course of my campaign so that important information is not merely disclosed to voters as late campaign attacks.
4. Comply with the letter and the spirit of all campaign laws.
5. Hold my campaign supporters to the same ethical standards to which I have agreed. I will publicly denounce any unethical behavior undertaken in support of my candidacy.

### **If I am elected, I will...**

6. Avoid conflicts of interest. Disclose to the public when conflicts cannot be avoided.
7. Conduct my personal life, business affairs and official duties in a manner that reflect high honor and integrity, morality and ethical standards.
8. Obey the law. Follow the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law. Encourage others to do so as well.
9. Put the well-being of the Town before my own personal goals. Avoid self promotion at Town expense. Avoid even the appearance of self dealing.
10. Be fair, honest and gracious. I will not engage in name-calling or other inflammatory language. I will emphasize friendly and courteous service to the public; and seek to improve the quality and image of public service.
11. Be responsive to residents.
12. Encourage participation in the process of elections and government by all residents. Give special attention to segments of the community who have not traditionally participated in the process.
13. Be accessible. I will be open and honest with the responsible members of the press/media, within the bounds of common sense.

**2. Proposed Ethics Code (Judy Paul and Tom Truex, June, 1999)**

## **JUDY PAUL / TOM TRUEX PROPOSED ETHICS CODE, June, 1999**

### **Candidates:**

1. Publish a clear platform or list of specific ideas you have on issues of importance to the Town. Encourage and participate in debates and forums which present the issues to residents.
2. Place a reasonable limit on campaign contributions from any individual or group. Let people know what that limit is.
3. Indicate whether there are any groups or people from whom you will not accept campaign donations or assistance; or whether you will accept legal donations and assistance from anyone.
4. Avoid untrue, misleading, or exaggerated claims about oneself or the opposing candidate(s).
5. Avoid negative campaigning, except to the extent necessary to point out legitimate differences between the candidates.
6. All campaign material and activities should be personally approved by the candidate. Do not condone or participate in "anonymous" campaign material.

### **Elected Officials:**

7. Avoid conflicts of interest. Disclose to the public when conflicts cannot be avoided. Abstain from voting when required by law. Make an effort to disclose to the public when a person or group is seeking your vote if that person or group has had a personal, business or campaign relationship with you.
8. Conduct your personal life, business affairs and official duties in a manner that reflect high honor and integrity, morality and ethical standards.
9. Obey the law. Follow the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law. Encourage others to do so as well.
10. Put the well-being of the Town before your own personal goals. Avoid self promotion at Town expense. Avoid even the appearance of self dealing.
11. Be fair, honest and gracious. Do not engage in name-calling or other inflammatory language. Emphasize friendly and courteous service to the public; and seek to improve the quality and image of public service.
12. Be responsive to residents.
13. Encourage participation in the process of elections and government by all residents. Give special attention to segments of the community who have not traditionally participated in the process.
14. Be open and honest with the responsible members of the press/media, within the bounds of common sense. Be accessible.

### **3. Broward County, Statement of Ethical Campaign Practices**

## **STATEMENT OF ETHICAL CAMPAIGN PRACTICES**

As a candidate for public office in Broward County, I believe that political issues can be freely debated without appealing to racial, ethnic, religious, sexual, or other prejudices. I recognize that such negative appeals serve only to divide this community and create long-term moral, social, and economic problems.

Therefore:

1. I shall not make my race, color, religion, gender, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation an issue in my campaign.
2. I shall not make my opponent's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, familial status, physical disability, or sexual orientation an issue in my campaign.
3. I will condemn any appeal to prejudice based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, familial status, physical disability, or sexual orientation.
4. I shall not attack or question my opponent's patriotism.
5. I shall not publish, display, or circulate any anonymous campaign literature or political advertisement nor shall I tolerate or permit members of my campaign organization to engage in such activities.
6. I shall not tolerate nor permit members of my campaign organization to engage in activities designed to destroy or remove campaign materials or signs lawfully displayed on public or private property.
7. I shall not tolerate my supporters engaging in these activities which I condemn nor shall I accept their continued support if they engage in such activities. I will not permit any member of my campaign organization to engage in these activities and will immediately and publicly repudiate the support of any other individual or group which resorts to the methods and tactics that I hereby condemn.
8. I shall run a positive campaign emphasizing my qualifications for office and my positions on issues of public concerns and I will limit my attacks on an opponent to legitimate challenges to that person's record, qualifications, and positions.
9. I will neither use nor permit the use of malicious untruths or innuendoes about an opponent's personal life, nor will I make or condone unfounded accusations discrediting an opponent's credibility.
10. I will not use or permit the use of campaign material that falsifies, distorts, or misrepresents facts.

## **4. Comparison Chart**

Broward County, STATEMENT OF ETHICAL CAMPAIGN PRACTICES	JUDY PAUL / TOM TRUEX PROPOSED ETHICS CODE, June, 1999	TOM TRUEX, PROPOSED ETHICS CODE, NOV. 2002	COMMENTS
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<p>As a candidate for public office in Broward County, I believe that political issues can be freely debated without appealing to racial, ethnic, religious, sexual, or other prejudices. I recognize that such negative appeals serve only to divide this community and create long-term moral, social, and economic problems.</p>	<p>&lt;No preamble&gt;</p>	<p>As a candidate for elected office in the Town of Davie, I voluntarily agree to abide by the ethical standards for candidates, as described in this Ethics Code. I will participate in any inquiry of the Broward County Ethics Commission. If elected, I commit to the ethical standards described for elected officials.</p>	<p>The Broward County Statement and both Davie Proposals are <u>voluntary</u> ethical codes. The Davie proposals describe ethical standards for elected officials, as well as candidates. The second Davie proposal makes it clear the candidate agrees to submit to the County Ethics Commission.</p>
<p>1. I shall not make my race, color, religion, gender, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation an issue in my campaign.  2. I shall not make my opponent's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, familial status, physical disability, or sexual orientation an issue in my campaign.  3. I will condemn any appeal to prejudice based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, familial status, physical disability, or sexual orientation.</p>	<p>&lt;no similar provisions&gt;</p>	<p>&lt;no similar provisions&gt;</p>	<p>These paragraphs are more a statement of what the County Commission thinks is politically correct rather than an ethical statement. On their face, these paragraphs might prohibit candidates from giving information about participation in religious organizations or civic organizations relating to national origin. These rules might prohibit encouraging diversity in the makeup of elected bodies.</p>

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4. I shall not attack or question my opponent's patriotism.	<no similar provision>	<no similar provision>	Only unfounded challenges to patriotism are unethical.
5. I shall not publish, display, or circulate any anonymous campaign literature or political advertisement nor shall I tolerate or permit members of my campaign organization to engage in such activities.	6. All campaign material and activities should be personally approved by the candidate. Do not condone or participate in "anonymous" campaign material. 9. Obey the law. Follow the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law. Encourage others to do so as well.	4. Comply with the letter and spirit of all campaign laws. 8. Obey the law. Follow the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law. Encourage others to do so as well.	The County Statement and the first Davie proposal describe illegal behavior ( <i>Florida Statute 106.143(1), (4)</i> ); Both Davie proposals say candidates and elected officials will follow the spirit of the law as well as the letter of the law.
6. I shall not tolerate nor permit members of my campaign organization to engage in activities designed to destroy or remove campaign materials or signs lawfully displayed on public or private property.	<i>(See provision above, relating to illegal behavior)</i>	<i>(See provision above, relating to illegal behavior)</i>	Describes illegal activity. This provision in the County Code is probably not necessary (i.e. not all illegal activity can be enumerated in an ethics code); but the inclusion of this provision is not offensive.

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<p>7. I shall not tolerate my supporters engaging in these activities which I condemn nor shall I accept their continued support if they engage in such activities. I will not permit any member of my campaign organization to engage in these activities and will immediately and publicly repudiate the support of any other individual or group which resorts to the methods and tactics that I hereby condemn.</p>	<p><i>&lt;no similar provision&gt;</i></p>	<p>5. I will hold my campaign supporters to the same ethical standards to which I have agreed. I will publicly denounce any unethical behavior undertaken in support of my candidacy.</p>	<p>This provision holds campaign workers to the same standards as candidates.</p>
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<p>8. I shall run a positive campaign emphasizing my qualifications for office and my positions on issues of public concerns and I will limit my attacks on an opponent to legitimate challenges to that person's record, qualifications, and positions.</p>	<p>1. Publish a clear platform or list of specific ideas you have on issues of importance to the Town. Encourage and participate in debates and forums which present the issues to residents.</p> <p>5. Avoid negative campaigning, except to the extent necessary to point out legitimate differences between the candidates.</p>	<p>1. Publish a clear platform with of specific ideas I have on issues of importance to the Town of Davie; together with an accurate list of my qualifications for the office I am seeking. I will encourage and participate in debates and forums which present the issues and qualifications to residents.</p> <p>3. Not resort to mud-slinging in my campaign. I will not use negative campaigning, except where necessary to make legitimate distinctions between myself and any other candidates. I will attempt to cover relevant qualifications and issues throughout the course of my campaign so that important information is not merely disclosed to voters as late campaign attacks.</p>	<p>The County Statement does not suggest a "platform." An ethical campaign should be based on issues and qualifications. The two Davie proposals remove the term "attack" from permitted behavior. Last minute campaign ambushes are condemned.</p>
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<p>9. I will neither use nor permit the use of malicious untruths or innuendoes about an opponent's personal life, nor will I make or condone unfounded accusations discrediting an opponent's credibility.</p> <p>10. I will not use or permit the use of campaign material that falsifies, distorts, or misrepresents facts.</p>	<p>4. Avoid untrue, misleading, or exaggerated claims about oneself or the opposing candidate(s).</p>	<p>2. Avoid untrue, misleading, or exaggerated claims about myself or opposing candidates.</p>	<p>The two Davie proposals are similar to the County Statement. The Broward County proposal is poorly worded when it says, "innuendoes about an opponent's personal life..." are unethical. In fact, innuendoes and more direct statements about an opponent's personal life are only unethical if untrue. For example, it wouldn't be unethical to refer to an opponent writing bad checks or using drugs--assuming it is true.</p>
<p>&lt;No similar provision&gt;</p>	<p>7. Avoid conflicts of interest. Disclose to the public when conflicts cannot be avoided. Abstain from voting when required by law. Make an effort to disclose to the public when a person or group is seeking your vote if that person or group has had a personal, business or campaign relationship with you.</p>	<p>6. Avoid conflicts of interest. I will disclose to the public when conflicts cannot be avoided.</p>	<p>Some conflicts of interest and issues of voting are addressed by State law. The two Davie proposals go further in discouraging even conflicts of interest which may not be addressed by the letter of the law.</p>
<p>&lt;No similar provision&gt;</p>	<p>8. Conduct your personal life, business affairs and official duties in a manner that reflect high honor and integrity, morality and ethical standards</p>	<p>7. Conduct my personal life, business affairs and official duties in a manner that reflect high honor and integrity, morality and ethical standards</p>	<p>Elected officials should hold themselves to the highest possible standards in personal life, business affairs and official duties.</p>

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<No similar provision>	10. Put the well-being of the Town before your own personal goals. Avoid self promotion at Town expense. Avoid even the appearance of self dealing.	9. Put the well-being of the Town before my own personal goals. Avoid self promotion at Town expense. Avoid even the appearance of self dealing.	Elected officials should put the good of the community ahead of personal self-dealing.
<No similar provision>	11. Be fair, honest and gracious. Do not engage in name-calling or other inflammatory language. Emphasize friendly and courteous service to the public; and seek to improve the quality and image of public service.	10. Be fair, honest and gracious. I will not engage in name-calling or other inflammatory language. I will emphasize friendly and courteous service to the public; and seek to improve the quality and image of public service.	Civility is part of ethical conduct.
<No similar provision>	12. Be responsive to residents.	11. Be responsive to residents.	Being responsive to residents is part of ethical conduct.
<No similar provision>	13. Encourage participation in the process of elections and government by all residents. Give special attention to segments of the community who have not traditionally participated in the process.	12. Encourage participation in the process of elections and government by all residents. I will give special attention to segments of the community who have not traditionally participated in the process.	Encouraging participation by the public is part of ethical conduct.
<No similar provision>	14. Be open and honest with the responsible members of the press/media, within the bounds of common sense. Be accessible.	13. Be accessible. I will be open and honest with the responsible members of the press/media, within the bounds of common sense.	The press/media serve a valuable public function in informing the public. Assisting this function is part of ethical conduct.

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<No similar provision>	2. Place a reasonable limit on campaign contributions from any individual or group. Let people know what that limit is.	<No similar provision>	
<No similar provision>	3. Indicate whether there are any groups or people from whom you will not accept campaign donations or assistance; or whether you will accept legal donations and assistance from anyone.	<No similar provision>	